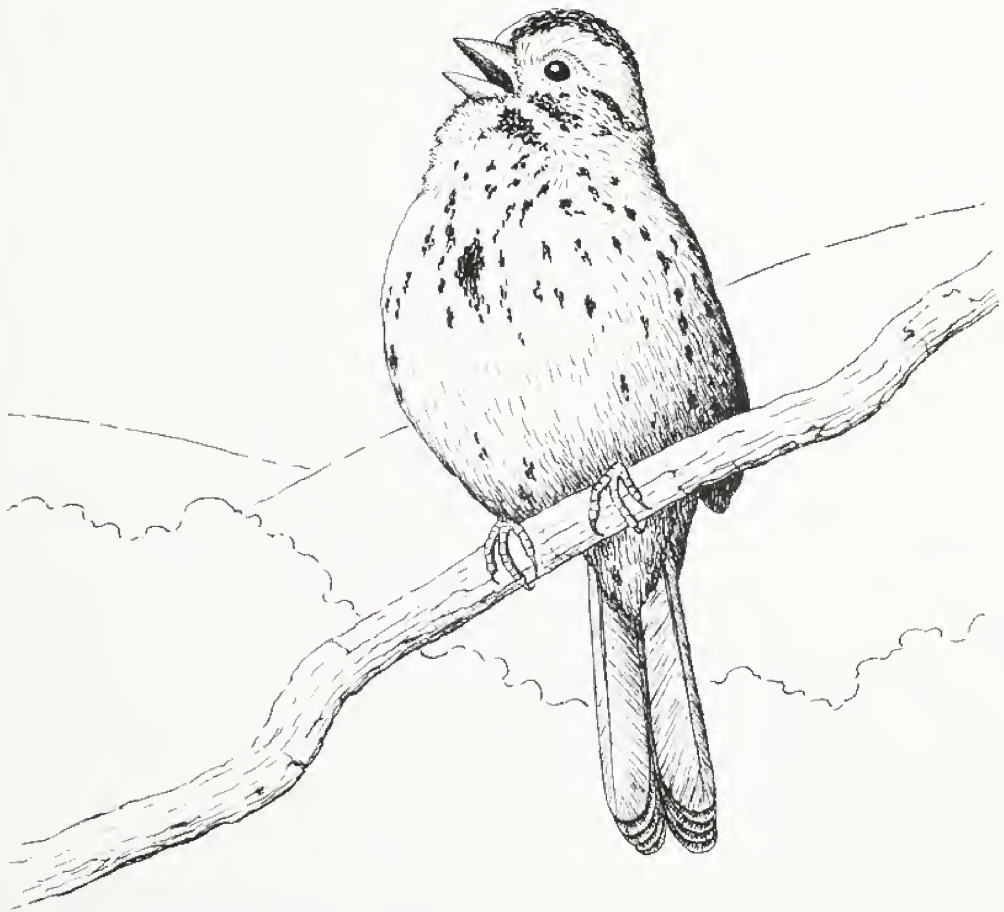


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# A Brief History of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and Its Ornithological Collections

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Each year the University of Iowa in Iowa City plays host to an estimated 42,000 visitors who are drawn to the campus by the attraction of natural history exhibits that are as diverse as nature itself. A 48-foot skeleton of an Atlantic right whale, a mounted specimen of the rare giant panda, a group of walrus collected by Robert E. Peary on his first polar expedition, and a multitude of North American birds are just some of the public displays in the Museum of Natural History located in Macbride Hall.

The Museum, second oldest in the U.S. west of the Mississippi River, was established in 1858 by an act of the Iowa General Assembly. At that time the legislature directed the University to house specimens from the state natural history and geological surveys in a "cabinet" of natural history to be located in the Old Capitol building. Now, nearly 125 years later, the Museum's collections number in excess of one million curated and indexed specimens and are still growing.

James Hall was appointed as State Geologist in 1855 and, beginning in 1858, served briefly as the first Curator of the Cabinet of Natural History. Theodore S. Parvin succeeded Hall as Curator and University Librarian in 1859. In addition to his curatorial duties, Parvin taught courses in botany, zoology, meteorology, physical geography, mineralogy, geology, and physiology. Adding to his burdens, in 1865 Parvin's teaching duties were extended to include five more courses within the department of history and political economy.

In 1866, Parvin was instrumental in inviting the great Harvard scientist, Louis Agassiz, to Iowa City to review fossil crinoid specimens from Devonian outcrops along the Iowa River. Under Agassiz, the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology had been elevated to international preeminence, and his utilization of specimen collections in his teaching helped establish a fundamental appreciation of their academic value.

Charles A. White, Parvin's successor as Curator in 1871, seized upon this concept in his arguments to President Thatcher for an expansion of the Cabinet's limited collections: "The method of object teaching is now adopted in the zoology classes of the best schools of the country — a moderate expenditure would enable me to introduce this method into my classes which is now impossible for want of suitable collections".

Frustrated by what he perceived to be a lack of support, Prof. White left the University in 1873, taking with him many specimens from the Cabinet which he had personally collected or purchased from individuals. This action apparently was more effective than words, as the beleaguered Pres. Thatcher subsequently reported to the Board of Regents: "The removal of Dr. White's private cabinet has so far diminished our means of illustrating the several branches of science . . . as to give the hall in which they are kept a melancholy look of poverty. To say nothing of the very great need of a large supply of these means for the instruction of our classes, mere respectability demands at least that our now empty showcases be quickly filled again with valuable specimens."



Samuel Calvin came to the University in 1873 as Acting Professor of Natural Science and Curator of the Cabinet of Natural History. In a notably succinct statement, he reported to the Board of Regents in 1875: "The pressing wants of this chair of Natural Science may be briefly summarized in two words, **more specimens . . .**" Under Calvin, the geological collections were greatly expanded, and although his career is generally identified with that discipline, he was also accountable for instruction in physiology, zoology, and botany.

Beginning in 1886 Charles C. Nutting served for 41 years as Curator of the Museum of Natural History (renamed in 1887 from the earlier "Cabinet") and head of the Department of Systematic Zoology. Rather ironically for a scientist in land-bound Iowa, Nutting's investigations were primarily directed to marine biology. He published extensively for both the University and Smithsonian Institution on marine hydroids — a relatively obscure group of plant-like coral animals. In all, Nutting described 134 species new to science, and his beautifully illustrated three-volume monograph on American hydroids is considered a classic of its kind.

The Museum received its first significant numbers of mounted birds and mammals under the curatorial stewardship of Nutting. In 1886 both William Temple Hornaday and Dr. Asa Horr donated their personal collections. An avid hunter and collector, Hornaday had earlier been sent by proprietor Henry Ward of Ward's Natural Science Establishment (1.) on a three-year round-the-world expedition to "collect one of every animal, both large and small". In all, 105 Hornaday specimens were received, including a number of rare Australian marsupials.

The Iowa-raised Hornaday, pioneer in the development of natural history dioramas and first director of the New York Zoological Park, later championed the cause of wildlife conservation at a time when few people recognized the need to preserve our natural heritage. The plight of the American bison, by 1890 nearly extinct, became his crusade. Largely through his efforts and the aid of influential friends, including Andrew Carnegie and Theodore Roosevelt, the bison were saved through the enactment of protective legislation and the establishment of refuges.

The bird collection of physician and naturalist Dr. Asa Horr of Dubuque, Iowa, included 171 specimens. The Vidette Reporter commented in 1887: "Among the most desirable forms may be noticed a fine Bald Eagle, three Loons, two Cormorants, a White Swan, a number of splendid Hawks and Owls, among which we noticed a Snowy Owl of gigantic dimensions, being larger than the extreme limits given by the authorities . . . The Horr collection increases the number of our mounted American birds by about 150 percent, and nearly doubles the number of species represented . . . We now have nearly 1,200 specimens of birds."

To obtain specimens for both research and museum display, Prof. Nutting organized University expeditions to the Bay of Fundy (1890), Manitoba (1891), the Bahama and Dry Tortugas Islands (1893), Hawaii (1902), Laysan Island (1909), Barbados and Antiqua (1918), and New Zealand and the Fiji Islands (1922). The Museum of Natural History collections swelled with the new additions, and Nutting became the driving force behind efforts to construct a large new museum.

The Museum had earlier been moved from the Old Capitol to the newly-completed Science Hall in 1885. However, by 1894 the burgeoning collections dictated that an even larger building be constructed. Nutting was a tireless advocate of a new facility that would also house the classrooms and laboratories of the Natural Science Department — inclusive of botany, geology and zoology. He was particularly concerned about the risk of fire to his specimens in the overcrowded Science Hall and constantly reminded the administration of the hazard.

1. Ward's Natural Science Establishment of Rochester, New York was founded in 1861 and remains in business today as a biological supply company.

On June 17, 1897, by example more compelling than any of his arguments, lightning struck the University Library, burning it to the ground along with most of the books and manuscripts. The Board of Regents subsequently approved a plan for the construction of a fireproof building to house the Museum and the Natural Science Department. The architectural firm of Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines was engaged for the project, and in 1904 a committee headed by Prof. Nutting toured six of the largest museums in the eastern U.S. for design studies.

Construction of the Natural Science Building began in the fall of 1904, and it was completed in 1907 at a cost of \$313,872.28, including furnishings. The neo-classic stone building incorporated grand architectural details reminiscent of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago — a stately, Ionic-columned portico, an ornate rotunda with fourteen free-standing scagliola columns, and, probably its most remarkable feature, designs of birds and other animals carved into the stone facade. The *Daily Iowan* commented as construction proceeded: "Probably one of the most novel, instructive, and . . . artistic pieces of exterior ornamentation in stone in the state of Iowa is that which is now being done on the new hall of natural sciences . . . The most prominent sides, the south, east, and north fronts of the building, will all be decorated by the carving of American animals on the several window heads." Specific to birds the *Daily Iowan* noted: ". . . representing the birds of prey will (be) the American Eagle with a pair of falcons and owls on either side. To one side of the group will be the game bird group having for its center the great American Turkey, the only bird which the American continent has given to domestication. On the sides will appear the prairie hen and a covey of quail, Iowa's most abundant and characteristic game birds. The third group will be of the water birds with a pair of night herons for a center and wild ducks and sea gulls to the right and left."

The building was a fitting architectural monument, reflecting the state's pride in the internationally-recognized work of the University of Iowa's great naturalists of that time — Samuel Calvin, Thomas Macbride, Bohumil Shimek, and Charles Nutting.



Figure 1. Macbride Hall on the Central University campus houses the Museum of Natural History. Completed in 1907, the building was patterned architecturally after the finest museums of that era.



Regrettably and also with great irony, Prof. Nutting's plan for the Natural Science Building was not to be realized in his lifetime. With its construction inspired in large part by the library fire of 1897, the administration decided that the rotunda of the newly-completed, fireproof Natural Science Building, designed as an exhibit gallery, would be used to house what remained of the University library! Because of these modifications, the departments of botany and geology never were moved into the building, and in 1926 the zoology department was moved out to provide room for other, non-science departments. Prof. Nutting died in 1927, bitter and disillusioned. In 1934 the Natural Science Building was renamed Macbride Hall.



Figure 2. Members of the 1902 "Albatross" expedition to Hawaii and Laysan Island, a cooperative venture between the University of Iowa and the U.S. Biological Survey. Prof. Charles C. Nutting, Curator of the Museum of Natural History from 1886 to 1927, is seated to the left.

Homer R. Dill succeeded Prof. Nutting in 1927, having joined the Museum faculty in 1907 as taxidermist and Assistant Professor of Zoology. A protege of William Hornaday, Dill's taxidermy skills came with the highest recommendation. During his 43 years of service to the Museum, Prof. Dill led collecting expeditions to Hawaii (1911 and 1920), Louisiana (1918), Washington (1919 and



Figure 3. Nesting colony of Royal Terns as seen during the Museum's 1918 Louisiana expedition. The photographer at the right is believed to be Alfred M. Bailey.



Figure 4. Prof. Homer R. Dill at Matzatlan, Mexico, in 1924. The expedition to collect fish and sea birds was sponsored by Mr. E. M. Brown of Des Moines.



1920), Wyoming (1921), Florida (1921), Colorado (1923), and Mexico (1924). In 1910 he organized the museum studies courses which the University has offered continuously since that date.

The hallmark exhibit of Prof. Dill's tenure was the superb Laysan Island cyclorama — probably still the best known of the Museum's ornithological exhibits. Laysan and other islands of the Leeward Group in the Pacific Ocean were designated by President Roosevelt in 1909 as the Hawaiian Islands Reservation, one of this country's first bird refuges. To study the vast Laysan bird rookeries and secure materials for a Museum display, arrangements were concluded in 1911 by Prof. Nutting for a cooperative expedition between the University and the U.S. Biological Survey to visit the island.

Homer Dill was selected to head the Laysan Island expedition, on which a total of 398 birds were collected. Of these, five species were endemic to the island, and three — the Laysan Honeycreeper, Laysan Rail and Millerbird — are now extinct. Prof. Dill later directed the preparation of the unique exhibit. The mounting of the 106 birds and installation of the cyclorama foreground required nearly three years. The painted background by Charles A. Corwin is 138 feet long and 12 feet high. When the display was completed in 1914, it was among the first museum exhibits to depict either birds or mammals in a cycloramic presentation of their natural habitat. A taped narration, complete with background bird calls and the sound of the surf, was recently added to the display.



Figure 5. View from the Laysan Island cyclorama with Black-footed Albatrosses in foreground. The small bird in the left center foreground is the extinct Laysan Rail.

Prof. Dill retired in 1949 and was succeeded by Walter C. Thietje, who had served as Dill's assistant since 1929. Prof. Thietje, a taxidermist of rare ability, continued the ornithological collecting tradition of Nutting and Dill, with significant numbers of specimens being acquired from his native South Dakota as well as Iowa and Idaho. This work essentially completed the Museum's taxonomic display series. Thietje and John R. Rohner, who served as Museum Instructor and Assistant Curator from 1950 to 1962, are largely responsible for the quality and completeness of the Museum's outstanding series of small song and insectivorous birds, particularly the warblers and sparrows.



Every venerable institution must at times weather adversity, and by far the most serious challenge faced by the Museum in its 123-year history was the bombshell proposal placed before the Board of Regents on October 14, 1965, by Howard R. Bowen, then University President. Faced by a combination of rapidly expanding student enrollments, the need for additional classroom space, and a Museum program which had reached stagnation, the Museum was viewed by the President as occupying space on the central campus that was far too valuable for display purposes only. President Bowen's proposal to eliminate the Museum was met by an avalanche of opposition. University students, faculty, and alumni as well as museum professionals from across the country flooded his office with protests. Probably the most vociferous opposition came from Iowa school children who sent mass mailings of letters to Dr. Bowen. Ironically, it was the Museum's mounted replica of a dodo — archetypal symbol of extinction — which became the rallying point of the children's efforts to save the Museum. Under these pressures, Dr. Bowen capitulated to the public mood and the proposal was dropped.

The writer joined the Museum faculty in 1966 and in 1973 was appointed Curator and Assistant Professor of Museum Studies. At that time it was clear that modernization of the Museum was imperative. With the support of the twelve-member Museum Advisory Committee chaired by the Dean of Liberal Arts, Dewey B. Stuit, an extensive program calling for the redesign of exhibits was launched. A high priority was assigned to achieving relevance between exhibit content and the instructional programs of the University's natural science departments. Presently, more than 3,000 University students registered in eleven courses formally use Museum exhibits each year with their instructors. The Museum, an autonomous department in the College of Liberal Arts, now serves an active, integrative role in educational programming between the departments of zoology, botany, geology and anthropology.

In addition to increased academic utilization, repository collections have been upgraded in recent years. The mammalian skin and skeletal collections — more than 2,600 specimens — have been centrally relocated in new dustproof and fireproof steel storage cabinets in Macbride Hall. Improved data retrieval systems have been developed for both the mammalian and ethnological materials, and the geological collections are now in the process of being computerized. Consolidation as well as upgraded storage of the ornithological study collection — dependent on the availability of money and space — have been given a high priority. At the present, the ornithological study materials are stored in four locations within Macbride Hall.

The Museum's collection of North American birds now numbers approximately 10,800 specimens, of which about 1,100 have been mounted for exhibition in systematic series and habitat groups. In addition to the Laysan Island exhibit, bird habitat exhibits present Sandhill Cranes on the Dakota prairie (with painted background by Francis Lee Jaques); warblers, sparrows, and other small songbirds feeding among the autumn foliage of an Iowa woodlot; egrets nesting in a Louisiana cypress swamp; and eider ducks and shorebirds as they arrive at their nesting grounds on the Bering Sea coast. The main exhibition gallery for birds, appropriately named Bird Hall, has an area of 5,700 square feet. Accessioning data for the bird specimens is entered into bound catalogs which have been maintained since 1858 as well as a cross-referenced card file. All catalog entries have also been duplicated on microfilm and placed in the central University library.

In addition to the Hornaday and Horr collections noted above, one of the more noteworthy of the private collections is that of Daniel H. Talbot, received in 1891. The Talbot collection totals in excess of 7,000 specimens, and provides the Museum with a number of ornithological rarities, including Passenger Pigeons, Ivory-billed

Woodpeckers, Whooping Cranes and Carolina Parakeets. Talbot, a wealthy Sioux City land speculator, has been described as a bird collector from the "old school." As a consequence of his celebrated collecting foray down the Arkansas River in 1882, he was credited by one researcher as having "quite literally cleaned out the last bunch of Parakeets in the Indian Territory." Needless to say, the Museum received an excellent series of Carolina Parakeets from the "Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory." Talbot's extensive ornithological library, including two sets of Audubon's *The Birds of America*, Wilson's *American Ornithology*, and other rare editions, was also donated to the University in 1891. These volumes are referenced in the Special Collections division of the University Library.

A collection of 600 mounted birds and study skins as well as 8,000 eggs representative of the New England area was acquired in 1928 through donation of the private collection of Rev. Clinton M. Jones of Eastford, Connecticut. Five bound journals of birding notes were also received, and they provide a detailed chronicle of Rev. Jones's field observations from 1872 to 1917.

A comprehensive collection of birds native to Iowa and the midwest has been assembled since the Museum's systematics collections were first begun in the 19th century. Samuel Calvin, Daniel H. Talbot, Charles C. Nutting, Paul Bartsch, Rudolf M. Anderson, Frank Bond, Ira N. Gabrielson, Alfred M. Bailey, Homer R. Dill, Walter C. Thietje, and John R. Rohner are primarily responsible for the development of the Iowa series. References to some of the more noteworthy Iowa specimen records are contained in Phillip DuMont's *Revised Checklist of the Birds of Iowa* (1933). Although active collecting has now ceased, the Museum continues to accession bird specimens, particularly ones periodically received from personnel of the State Conservation Commission.

The collections are used recurrently by professional ornithologists and graduate students involved in a variety of research projects. Awareness of the specimen resource is expedited by the Museum's membership in the Association of Systematic Collections, a national organization comprised of institutions in the U.S. with extensive taxonomic holdings. The ASC fosters research data exchanges, establishes guidelines for the acquisition and management of collections and the improvement (e.g. computerization) of data retrieval systems. The Museum also maintains a federal certificate for scientific exchange pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This facilitates the export-import exchange of plant and animal specimens between scientific institutions registered by management authority in party nations. Without the CITES permit, such international transactions can be bureaucratic nightmares.

Relative to curation, the Museum faculty is frequently asked how long mounted or study skin specimens of birds may be expected to endure. The answer is "indefinitely". The Museum has on exhibition a number of mounted birds exceeding 100 years of age which remain in excellent condition. Mechanical damage, particularly from handling, can produce greater deterioration to study specimens in five minutes than the passage of 100 years if the specimen is protected behind glass. Other detrimental factors include exposure to sunlight (ultraviolet light), variations in temperature and humidity, insects, and, of course, faulty initial preparation of the specimen.

And what of the Museum's future? Culminating four years of internal study, a plan to develop a major new exhibit gallery for the Museum of Natural History was announced to the public on May 7, 1982. A \$1.9 million fund drive coordinated by the University of Iowa Foundation is being directed to the renovation of the central rotunda of Macbride Hall and the construction of the new exhibits. Departmental



relocations now in progress will clear approximately 6,000 square feet for the gallery. To be known as Iowa Hall, the new gallery has as its basic purpose the display and interpretation of the natural history of the state of Iowa — its geological, archaeological, and ecological heritage.

Exhibits in Iowa Hall will be linked by space, by theme, and by time. Following concepts developed by the faculty Executive Committee of the Museum, Chicagoan Ben Kozak, designer of the King Tut exhibition, has prepared a striking plan to wed the unique architectural features of Macbride Hall to a state-of-the-art museum presentation. Included among the 56 new exhibits will be dramatic and colorful dioramas, mural wall treatments, audio-visual presentations, and "hands-on" specimens.

The exhibit sequence will begin with Iowa's four-billion-year geologic history, proceed through the Pleistocene era and the first evidence of humans in Iowa, present a chronology of prehistoric cultures which merge into the coming of the first Europeans, and culminate in a review of ecological themes and distinctive Iowa habitats. The collection resource for the new exhibits will be drawn from the Museum's repositories, and most of the specimens will have never before been seen by the public.

In 1983 the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History will celebrate its 125th year. By that time, construction of Iowa Hall will be well underway. Upon completion, all Iowans will be able to take pride in the achievement of this superb new educational resource — and the dream of Prof. Nutting for Macbride Hall will be largely realized.

Public hours of the Museum are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; Sundays, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

## Relative Abundance of Birds in City Park

RENE LAUBACH

4500 Grand Ave.

DES MOINES, IOWA

Brown (1966) studied the winter bird populations of a 33 acre (13.4 hectare) portion of Greenwood Park in Des Moines from 1954 through 1965. He made census trips from late November to early March. During the 12 winters Brown recorded 18 species, the most numerous being Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, House Sparrow, and European Starling.

During 1980-1981 the present author undertook a one year census of bird populations in Des Moines' Ashworth Park which is situated immediately south of Greenwood Park. The two parks merge imperceptibly, each occupying very similar acreage. Ashworth Park, immediately west and south of the Des Moines Center of Science and Industry, is climax oak woodland, whereas large portions of Greenwood are characterized by more open stands of timber. The area covered by the present study includes the northern one-half of Ashworth Park, approximately 35 acres (14 ha) in size. The park is bounded by wooded residential areas to the east, southeast and west and by river bottom forest to the south. An intermittent creek flows through the study area and a small lake borders the park to the north. A network of foot trails traverse the area and a paved bikeway runs along the western edge. A large bird feeder is located immediately west of the Science Center building. The park is rather typical upland deciduous forest, with elevations ranging from 820 feet (250 meters) to 920 ft. (280.5 m). Dominant tree species are White Oak (*Quercus alba*) averaging 15 inches (38 centimeters) diameter at breast height, Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) averaging 18 in. (46.7 cm d.b.h.), and Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) averaging 18 in. (46.7 cm d.b.h.).

A few large Basswood (*Tilia americana*) trees averaging 21 in. (53.4 cm d.b.h.) and Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) trees averaging seven inches (17.8 cm d.b.h.) are also present. The primary understory tree is Eastern Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) averaging five inches (12.7 cm d.b.h.). Gray Dogwood (*Cornus paniculata*) is the dominant shrub. A checklist of 137 avian species has been prepared for the two parks combined.

Surveys of the avifauna were conducted from 6 April 1980 through 31 March 1981. A total of 108 counts were made during the period: winter (December-February) 27; spring (March-May) 46; summer (June-July) 5; fall (August-November) 30. Twenty surveys were conducted during May, the most for any one month, while none were made in July, the only month without a count. At least one count was conducted during each of 42 weeks. The great majority of surveys were 30 to 45 minutes in length and were conducted between 1200 and 1300 hours. The earliest was at 0730 and the latest at 1730. A wide variety of weather conditions were encountered. Temperatures ranged from 5 degrees F (-15 degrees C) to 94 degrees F (34.4 degrees C).

Sixty-seven species of birds were recorded during the census year. Of these, four are introduced species: House Sparrow, European Starling, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Rock Dove. In all, 1,690 encounters of the remaining 63 native species were recorded. Auditory as well as visual cues were recorded and 8x40 binoculars were used during all but three counts. Thirteen species encountered with the greatest frequency were: Black-capped Chickadee (287 encounters), American Robin (152), White-breasted Nuthatch (148), Blue Jay (120), Northern Junco (118), Red-headed Woodpecker (91), Common Crow (89), Tufted Titmouse (79), Northern Cardinal (76), Downy Woodpecker (69), and Common Flicker (51). These species accounted for 83 percent of all encounters. An additional 10 species were recorded 10 or more times each: House Wren (32), Hairy Woodpecker (20), Yellow-rumped Warbler (19), Red-eyed Vireo (16), Chimney Swift (14), Brown-headed Cowbird (13), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (13), Mourning Dove (13), Nashville Warbler (13), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (11). Twenty-seven species were encountered from two to nine times each: American Goldfinch (9), Indigo Bunting (8), Hermit Thrush (7), Swainson's Thrush (6), Great Crested Flycatcher (6), Barred Owl (6), Purple Finch (5), Broad-winged Hawk (5), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (5), Least Flycatcher (5), Tennessee Warbler (5), Ovenbird (5), Kentucky Warbler (5), Northern Oriole (5), Eastern Pewee (5), Pine Siskin (5), Brown Creeper (5), Brown Thrasher (4), Black-throated Green Warbler (4), Barn Swallow (4), Turkey Vulture (4), Palm Warbler (3), Eastern Phoebe (3), Gray Catbird (3), Red-winged Blackbird (2), Wood Thrush (2), and Red-tailed Hawk (2). Thirteen species were recorded only once: American Woodcock, Wood Duck, Cedar Waxwing, Bell's Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Winter Wren, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Pileated Woodpecker.

This study gives some idea as to the relative abundance of common bird species in climax oak woodland, a habitat rapidly disappearing from much of the state. Of the 13 species recorded most often, all but American Robin have been observed at the Science Center's bird feeding station. Seven of the 13 are cavity nesters. The park's many large living and dead trees provide an abundance of nesting sites. Of the most recorded species, Brown (1971) lists five as abundant permanent residents (Black-capped Chickadee, W. b. Nuthatch, Common Crow, Northern Cardinal, and Downy Woodpecker), five more as abundant breeders (American Robin, Blue Jay, Red-headed Woodpecker, Common Grackle, and Common Flicker), two as common permanent residents (Tufted Titmouse and



Red-bellied Woodpecker), and one (Northern Junco) as an abundant winter resident. The migrant species most often recorded was Yellow-rumped Warbler with 19 encounters. Brown (1971) listed it as an abundant migrant in Iowa. The most unusual sighting of the census period was one Pileated Woodpecker, observed 13 March 1981. The species is considered rare in central Iowa and was not included by Brown in his Polk County Checklist. Black-capped Chickadee was by far the most often encountered species during all seasons except summer when few census trips were made. An average of 2.7 chickadees were recorded during each outing. In fact, 17 percent of all birds recorded were of this species. Tufted Titmouse had the most encounters (13) during the brief summer census period. During fall nearly as many robins (54) were noted as chickadees (59). Nineteen species were recorded during winter, as compared to 18 by Brown (1966). An average of 15.7 birds were recorded during each census trip.

Several interesting population trends were noted. Although a comparable number of counts were made in winter as in fall, only 29 Blue Jays were recorded in winter as compared to 45 in fall. Perhaps this was due to a majority first year birds migrating southward (Stokes, 1979), leaving a smaller overwintering population composed primarily of older birds. Only eight crows were tabulated during fall as compared to 43 in winter. The tendency of crows to gather in large gregarious flocks in winter could have made them more conspicuous. Additionally, the local population may have been augmented by an influx of birds from the Canadian prairie provinces (Stokes, *ibid.*). The vast majority of N. Cardinal encounters were made in spring when 61 birds were recorded. Very few N. Cardinals were recorded during fall (7) or winter (3). Bent (1968) related the species' tendency to move northward or northeastward in late summer and fall. Seventy-five years ago the N. Cardinal was considered rare in Iowa in winter (Anderson, 1907). Perhaps the birds in this study moved into area offering greater food availability than the oak woodland. More puzzling was the relative infrequency with which Red-bellied Woodpeckers were encountered during spring (8), as compared to 25 fall records and 23 winter records. Bent (1939) mentions a general southward movement in fall, although Anderson (*ibid.*) relates an apparent northward movement in winter. In general, the irregular wanderings of this species depend more upon the abundance of the food supply. It would be instructive to census the birds of this locality during years hence.

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## CONVENTION



### 1982 Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held at Decorah, Iowa on November 20 and 21, 1982. It was hosted by Joe Schaufenbuel and Darwin Koenig.

The group gathered at the Decorah United Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday for a field trip. The choice was either Yellow River State Forest or Locks and Dam 9 on the Mississippi River. The majority of the group headed for the locks because of the high concentration of Tundra Swans there.

The group reassembled at the church at 6:00 p.m. for the evening meal and the program. The meal was prepared by Darwin's mother with ham donated by Your Choice Beef of West Union. After dinner President Silcock announced the spring meeting would be at Shenandoah on April 23 and 24, 1983. Dr. James Sandrock, chairman of the IOU Review Committee, gave a brief summary of the report he made to the executive committee.

The evening's program began with some slides to stump the "experts". This proved that slides do not always show enough field marks to identify the bird. Care must be taken when sending slides into the records committee to insure that the distinguishing field marks are visible.

Following the entertaining test of expertise, Dr. James Dinsmore of Iowa State University presented a "Raptor Identification Workshop". The workshop offered everyone something of value from novice to expert. Mounts and study skins were used, as well as slides.

Sunday morning dawned crisp and clear. It proved to be a very nice day for birding. The field trips left for Yellow River State Forest or the Upper Iowa River Valley after breakfast at the Union Building at Luther College. The target birds for the area were seen. They were Golden Eagle, Tundra Swan and Northern Shrike. The view of the Northern Shrike was disappointing for most observers as it was a brief view into the sun.

Sunday's luncheon was at the Harbor House Restaurant at Harper's Ferry. Peter Petersen led the compilation of the bird list. Although it was not a long list, the morning's birding provided some not often seen birds and some never observed before on the fall count. - MARY LOU PETERSEN, SECRETARY.

### Birds seen on the Field Trips, November 21, 1982

Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Trunda Swan, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, American Black Duck, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk (JR), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, American Coot, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Shrike (JS), European Starling,



House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Northern Junco, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. — 67 species.

Additional species recorded on Saturday only were: Pied-billed Grebe, Common Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Northern Harrier.

#### Registered Attendance — 53

AMES: James, Steve and Mark Dinsmore, David Newhouse and Joe Schaufenbuel.

BOONEVILLE: Eugene and Eloise Armstrong.

CASTALIA: Florence Albright.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Roberta Oppedahl.

COLO: Hank and Linda Zlatel.

DAVENPORT: Peter and Mary Lou Petersen.

DECORAH: Alan Branham.

DES MOINES: Rene and Christyna Laubach, Richard and Pauly Mooney and Dennis Thompson.

ELDORA: Nancy Slife.

ESTERVILLE: Harold and Katie White.

HASTINGS: Barb Wilson.

IOWA CITY: Carl Bendorf, Jim Fuller, Tom Kent, Calvin and Bernadine Knight, Mike and Carol Newlon, Jim, Donna and Johanna Sandrock, Thomas Staudt and Richard Tetrault.

LISCOMB: Beth Proescholdt.

MARION: Lucille Lijedahl.

MALVERN: Ross Silcock.

MARSHALLTOWN: Jim and Pauline Mairs.

MONTEZUMA: Darwin Koenig.

OTTUMWA: Donald and Elaine Johnson.

UNION: Phyllis Harris.

WATERLOO: Dennis Edgar, Harvey and Anna Mae Krichgatter, Francis Moore and Bob Myers.

HERRIN, ILLINOIS: John Robinson.

La CROSSE, WISCONSIN: Fred Leshner.

## Summer Records of Hooded Warbler

CARL BENDORF

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IOWA CITY

Shortly after noon on 4 June 1982, I was returning to my car after a walk in the Amana Woods along the south side of the Iowa River and to the east of highway 149. My attention was drawn to a loud chip note in the nearby undergrowth. I soon discovered the source of the sound to be a female Hooded Warbler.

I observed the bird for ten minutes and noted the following fieldmarks:

Olive-green back, tail, and wings. Distinct black shading which started on the upper forehead and extended around side of head, dipping down behind the ear. This black shading outlined a bright yellow face, forehead, and cheek. Entire underparts bright yellow except for large white spots on underside of tail. Dark and thin bill.

The bird actively foraged very close to the ground or perched momentarily on the lower limbs of small trees. The Hooded Warbler frequently flipped its tail and it constantly emitted a loud chip note similar to but not quite as sharp as that of a N. Cardinal.

Occasionally the bird would drop to the ground out of my view. At two different times I saw the bird carrying what appeared to be fine grasses in its mouth.

The female Hooded Warbler was seen again later in the day at this same spot by Tom Kent and Tom Staudt of Iowa City, Lanny Haldy of Amana, and me.

At this same spot on 9 June, Lanny and I observed a male Hooded Warbler in full breeding plumage. On 14 June, I heard and saw a second male bird over one half mile west of the first location. At the original spot on 21 June, two birds were heard singing simultaneously. Finally, on 4 July, all three males were found within 45 minutes. As far as I know, the female was not seen again after the 11 June observation by Bob Myers of Waterloo.

During June and early July, I made ten visits to this area and found one or more Hooded Warblers on five of those visits. The presence of three singing males and a female (possibly carrying nesting materials) suggests that this species may have nested in this area in 1982. The dense undergrowth, ravenous mosquitoes, and a strong reluctance to disturb the birds precluded any kind of systematic search for nests or young birds.

Other birds regularly present in the Amana Woods during this same period included Wild Turkey, Acadian Flycatcher, Veery, White-eyed Vireo, Cerulean, Worm-eating, and Kentucky Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

The Amana Woods is an extensive area of deciduous woodland in the Iowa River valley between Homestead and Amana in Iowa County. The specific area of the observations is known locally as the "Dutch Lake Road". This is a dirt road running through the woods along the south bluff above the Iowa River. The general habitat in this area is a rolling moist deciduous woodland with much dense undergrowth. Most of the observations were along the many roads and clearings created by logging activities.

This encounter with the Hooded Warbler prompted me to learn more about the occurrence of this species in Iowa. The Hooded Warbler is a rare migrant through Iowa. It is thought to be a possible summer resident in the south and east portion of Iowa. Most records have been from the eastern half of the state during the month of May. There have been very few fall sightings.

The recent summer records of the Hooded Warbler are as follows:

2 July 1971, Ledges State Park, Boone Co., (IBL 41:90)

6-7 July 1976, Yellow River State Forest, Allamakee Co., (IBL 46:85)

7 August 1976, a pair of Effigy Mounds Natl. Mon., Allamakee Co., (IBL 46:85)

July 1977, a bird lingered into July at Marquette, Clayton Co., (IBL 47:103)

1 June 1979, Shimek State Forest, Lee Co., (IBL 49:84)

7 July 1979, Volga Lake, Fayette Co., (IBL 49:84)

16 June 1980, Pilot Knob State Park, Hancock Co., (IBL 51:114)

The only nesting record of the Hooded Warbler is from 1894 when two nests were found by Currier in Lee County in extreme southeast Iowa (DuMont 1935). In an article which appeared the following year in *The Iowa Ornithologist*, Currier indicated that he considered the Hooded Warbler to be a common breeding bird along the mouth of the Des Moines River near Keokuk (Currier 1895).

In material being prepared for the forthcoming book on the birds of Iowa, Petersen suggests that the Hooded Warbler seems to be increasingly frequent in Iowa. He notes three records of this species during 1950-1967, twelve records during 1968-1974, and 27 records during 1975-1981. Furthermore, during the seven years



from 1974 through 1980, nine Hooded Warblers were banded by Petersen at Pine Hill Cemetery in Davenport. But in the 14 years from 1960 through 1973, none were banded at this same location.

Iowa is at the extreme northwest edge of the Hooded Warbler's normal range which is much of the eastern half of the U.S. The increasing Iowa records suggest that this species may be expanding its range. After an 88 year absence of nesting records, the Hooded Warbler may soon be discovered breeding again in our state.

#### References

- DuMont, P. 1935. Additional Iowa Species of Birds Substantiated by Specimens. *Wilson Bulletin* 47:205-208.  
Currier, Edmonds S. 1895. The Hooded Warbler. *The Iowa Ornithologist*. Vol. 1 No. 3 pp. 67-70.  
Petersen, Peter C. 1982. (Personal communication)

#### FIELD REPORTS FALL 1982

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#### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

Clouds, haze, and fog characterized the reporting period. The state experienced 10-30 percent less sunshine than normal during the four months. Humidities were high and wind movement less; temperatures were seasonal for the most part, with monthly occurrences of wide variation, e. g., on 3 Aug Des Moines registered 90 F, while on 28 Aug readings reached 39 F at Boone and 40 F at Elkader. Oct maintained this pattern: 15 F at Rock Rapids on 21 Oct; 88 F at Keokuk on 5 Oct. Precipitation was variable across the state, but on the average totaled about 6 inches above normal for the period. Soil moisture levels are the most abundant over Iowa since 1973. The effect of some heavy rains and resulting wet lands undoubtedly affected bird populations. Although Oct was notable for early snows, especially in NW Iowa, and some freezing at mid-month, the period ended with a relatively mild, moist Nov. The year continues its cool, wet pace with temperatures lagging about 2 percent, largely due to the unusual Jun weather -- the coolest since 1967.

The high water at Coralville Res. and ponds east of Colo in Story Co. made excellent shorebird habitat for the fall. Dredging of a pond at L. Manawa produced new shorebird habitat and several late fall records.

#### GENERAL TRENDS

Some late duck nesting was noted and the second record for the state of nesting of American Wigeon was documented at Willow Sl. No peaks were noted in waterfowl as migration was protracted and delayed by the mild weather. The Northern Goshawk invasion was even more pronounced than last year. Quail and pheasant populations were said to be down due to the wet summer. Shorebird reports were mostly from Coralville Res., near Colo, and L. Manawa where habitat was particularly favorable. An influx of warblers was noted in Hardin Co. on 28 Aug, and many passerines migrating on 13-14 Sep were killed at Alleman TV Tower. The migration was thought to be the worst in years in western Iowa (TB). Sparrows were late with a massive influx noted in Hardin and Johnson Cos. on 31 Oct. Winter Finches were notably absent.

#### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The most unusual bird of the season was the Ruff that appropriately showed up in the hog lot of IOU President Ross Silcock for the second state record. Nearly as rare was the Brown Pelican at Keokuk, a fifth state record. A House Finch at Mason City was the fourth state record and the

first female. Another female Black-headed-type grosbeak continues the problem of determining whether these birds are hybrids or not. Casual species for the period included Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Prairie Falcon, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Burrowing Owl. A Lark Bunting was reported for June.

#### SPECIES DATA

**Common Loon:** The earliest was 10 Oct at Sayorville Res. (JPSc), the latest 21 Nov at L. Macbride (RJH), and peak of 26 on 31 Oct at L. Macbride/Coralville Res. (TK, CJB); 1-8 were reported from 4 other locations.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 at Lower Pine L., Hardin Co., on 20 Sep (\*PH) is the third earliest fall date.

**Horned Grebe:** The earliest date and peak were 27 at Cherokee on 1 Oct (MBre). The latest was 21 Nov at L. Manawa (BPa, LPa). The peak at Saylorville Res. was 15 on 31 Oct (JD et al.)

**Eared Grebe:** An adult and 2 immatures were at Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB et al.). Other reports of 1-2 were from Sioux Center on 24 Aug (GB fide JV), NW Marshall Co. on 19 Sep (RRS fide BPr), Pine L. on 20 Sep (PH), Cherokee on 7 Oct (DBi), and Saylorville Res. on 10 Oct (JPSc).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Two peaks were noted at Willow Sl. with 114 on 15 Sep and 105 on 2 Nov; 9 were present until 8 Nov (BLW).

**American White Pelican:** Large numbers were reported from many areas with peaks of 500 at Saylorville Res. on 18 Sep (MM), 150 at L. Manawa on 3 Oct (SK, JK), 150 at Willow Sl. on 18 Sep (BLW), 100 at Forney L. on 5 Sep (BPa, LPa), and 100 in Hardin Co. on 15 Sep (PH). The earliest were 10 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 24 Aug (RVH) and latest on 7 Nov at Saylorville Res. (JPSc). Eastern Iowa sightings were 10 on 14 Oct at Amana L. (CJB) and 14 at Coralville Res. on 17 Oct (TK et al.).

**Brown Pelican:** The fifth Iowa sighting for this species was from the Mississippi R. bridge at Keokuk on 18 Oct by \*Elton Fawks. The record was accepted by the Records Committee.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Large numbers were reported from many locations with peaks of 650 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Oct (JPSc), 500 at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (TJS), 350 at Red Rock Res. on 22 Oct (RT), 42 at Forney L. on 14 Aug (BLW), and 40 at L. Manawa on 14 Oct (TB, BPa). Early dates were 1 at Willow Sl. on 10 Aug (BLW) and 3 at Coralville Res. on 14 Aug (TK).

**Great Blue Heron:** The largest concentration was 296 at Coralville Res. on 3 Oct (TK).

**Green Heron:** 1 at Council Bluffs on 14 Oct (TB, BPa) was the third latest date. Others were late at George Wyth SP on 10 Oct (FM) and Appanoose Co. on 3 Oct (RC).

**Little Blue Heron:** 1 imm. at Coralville Res. on 7 Aug, 1 Sep (TK, CJB); 1-2 at Forney L. on 11, 22 Aug (TB et al.); 1 ad. at Skunk River Access, Lee Co., on 5 Sep (HW).

**Cattle Egret:** Large numbers were reported, especially from SW Iowa where 100-150 were at Forney L. from late Aug to early Oct (Robert Kohlsdorf fide JD, m. ob.) and 2 were still there on 20 Nov (\*KD). Four at Riverton W.A. on 26 Nov (BB) was a record late date. Coralville Res. area birds were noted from 14 Aug to 28 Sep with peak of 23 on 25 Sep (TK). Other reports were 3 in Marshall Co. on 3 Oct (Mike Brown fide JD), 12 in N. Linn Co. on 5 Oct (George Kramer fide TK), and 1 in Pocahontas Co. on 5 Nov (WJ).

**Snowy Egret:** One was reported from DeSoto N.W.R. on 13 Aug (Dave Menke fide TB).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** 14 ad. and 7 imm. were at Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB et al.). An imm. was reported from Rock Valley, Sioux Co., on 16 Oct (GB fide JV).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** An imm. was reported from Lewis and Clark SP on 6 Aug (TB), and an ad. from Forney L. on 11 Aug (TB, BPa), and 10 imm. at Forney L. on 17 Aug (TB, BPa) with 1 remaining until 10 Sep.

**Least Bittern:** Many more than usual were reported for fall: 2-3 at Forney



- L. from 11-22 Aug (TB, BPa) and singles from Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 6 Aug (RVH), Anderson L. on 9 Aug (HZ), a dazed bird on the street at Okoboji on 10 Aug (treated and released, DCH), Willow Sl. on 8, 25 Sep (BLW), and McCord's Pond, Guthrie Co., on 12 Sep (RL).
- American Bittern: 3 were at Forney L. on 22 Aug and 1 was there on 10 Sep (TB et al.).
- Whistling Swan: 570 at Lock and Dam 9 on 19 Nov (JR., m. ob.) is a record number for the state. Singles were also noted at Hendrickson M. on 13 Nov (Barry Kenny fide MM), at DeSoto N.W.R. on 14 Nov (Rick Wright fide TB), at Sweet M. on 19 Nov (CJB), n. of Cherokee in Clay Co. on 22 Nov (an immature shot, DBi), and at Bays Branch on 26 Nov (RC).
- Snow Goose: Estimates at Riverton W.A. and DeSoto N.W.R. were 150,000 in Nov (BB, CFS).
- Ross' Goose: 1 was at DeSoto N.W.R. (Iowa side) on 4 Nov (\*JD, SD, M Brown). As of 25 Nov at Riverton W.A., 3 of 950 birds at the check station were Ross' Geese (BB).
- American Wigeon: Barb Wilson recorded Iowa's second nesting record for this species when a female with 5-7 young was found at Willow Sl. on 7, 16, 18 Aug.
- American Black Duck: Early arrivals were at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 6 Aug (RVH) and Sioux Center on 30 Aug (GB fide JV).
- Canvasback: The peak at Silver L., Dickinson Co., was 150 (DCH). On 19 Nov, 60 were at Lock and Dam 9 (JR). No counts were given for the Keokuk pool.
- Ring-necked Duck: John Robinson estimated 5,800 at Lock and Dam 9 on 19 Nov.
- Greater Scaup: None reported.
- Oldsquaw: A female was at Ft. Madison on 17 Nov (\*CJB, photos).
- White-winged Scoter: 2 males were at Saylorville Res. on 15 Nov (\*JPSc).
- Common Goldeneye: The earliest date was 18 Nov with 4 at DeSoto N.W.R. (CFS) and 24 at Big Spirit L. (DCH).
- Ruddy Duck: 1 was still at Lock and Dam 9 on 19 Nov (JR).
- Turkey Vulture: 30 were at Coralville Res. on 1 Aug (MN); others remained into early Oct with 2 at George Wyth SP (FM, RKM), 29 at Ledges SP (JD, SD, MD), and 63 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (RC) on 10 Oct and 1 in Dallas Co. on 16 Oct (RL).
- Osprey: 1-2 were reported from 12 localities from 18 Aug at Davenport (PP) to 16 Oct at Rock Valley (GB fide JV).
- Bald Eagle: 1-14 reported from many locations across the state with the earliest at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 22 Sep (TJS).
- Northern Harrier: A pair with 3 young during the summer was reported from Emmet Co. by Bob Moats. Fall reports were mostly of 1-2 birds but "good numbers" were found in Sioux Co. in Sep-Oct (JV).
- Northern Goshawk: 12 documentations were received for 14 birds, all adults. The first on 22 Sep in Mitchell Co. flew into a window and was injured, but recovered after five days (\*JLH). Of the other sightings, 6 in Oct and 7 in Nov were from the following counties: Allamakee, 2 (\*FM, \*JR, \*JPSc), Bremer (\*FM, \*RKM), Delaware (\*CJB), Iowa (\*CJB), Johnson, 3 (\*CJB, \*TK, \*TJS), Polk, 2 (\*JPSc), Sioux (\*GB), Story (\*RSB), and Wayne (\*FM). There were 5 other undocumented sightings from Polk, Dallas, and Johnson Cos.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only 3 were seen in Mills Co. from 6 Sep to 28 Oct (BLW) and there were few other reports.
- Cooper's Hawk: 1 was at Elkhart from 20 Sep to 31 Oct (DDM); others were in Sioux Co. on 4, 25 Sep (GB, JV) and Johnson Co. on 17 Oct (TK).
- Red-tailed Hawk: A Harlan's Hawk was noted at Meridan on 24 Oct (MBre). At Ledges SP, 40 were migrating on 10 Oct (JD).
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was at Yellow River F. on 4 Sep (JPSc).
- Broad-winged Hawk: Early dates were 9 Aug in Van Buren Co. (JKS fide JPSa) and 11 Sep in Johnson Co. (TK). Peak numbers were 500-600 n. of Waverly on 18 Sep (RKM) and 40 at Iowa City on the same day (TJS).
- Swainson's Hawk: 2 were late on 25 Oct in Lyon Co. (DCH). Others were

- in Pocahontas Co. on 6 Sep (WJ), Dickinson Co. on 18 Sep (DCM), and Lyon Co. on 20 Sep (DCH).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** There were scattered reports with the first on 22 Oct at Coralville Res. (MN).
- Golden Eagle:** Several adults and immatures were seen in Allamakee Co. on 19-21 Nov during the fall IOU meeting (\*FM, \*RKM, m. ob.) and 1 was in nearby Winneshiek Co. on 24 Nov (JPSc).
- Prairie Falcon:** A male adult, found injured at Pisgah, Harrison Co., was brought to DeSoto N.W.R. on 25 Sep and died two days later (BP, LPa).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Apparently different birds were at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (\*MN) and 10 Oct (\*RJM, \*TK, \*MN).
- Merlin:** 5 documented sightings were 13 and 18 Sep in NE Mills Co. (\*BLW), 8 Oct in N. Marshall Co. (\*RRS), 10 Oct at Coralville Res. (\*MN), and 23 Oct n. of North Liberty (\*TK). Another was found dead in Webster Co. on 12 Sep by Richard and Peggy Hay and submitted to Iowa State University (JD).
- Gray Partridge:** 12 were noted on 30 Oct in NW Marshall Co. (PH fide BPr).
- Virginia Rail:** 1 was at Nashua on 21 Aug (RKM).
- Sora:** One found freshly dead by a bus driver at Coralville on 19 Oct (TJS) is the second latest on record. Others were 4 at Forney L. on 5 Sep (BP, LPa), 1 at IPL Settling Ponds on 10 Sep (TB, BJR), and 8 at Bays Branch on 18 Sep (RC).
- Common Gallinule:** 1 at Riverton W.A. on 23 Oct (BB) is the latest on record. Another was at Lansing on 13 Aug (JPSc).
- American Avocet:** Reports included the following: 12 on 21 Aug at Credit I. (LL fide PP), 1 on 29 Aug at IPL Settling Ponds (Alan Grenon fide TB), 1 on 11 Oct at Saylorville Res. (JPSc), 1 on 11-14 Oct at Sioux Center (JV), and 6-10 on 3, 10, 14 Oct at L. Manawa (TB, m. ob.).
- Semipalmated Plover:** Coralville Res. birds were seen from 2 Aug to 10 Oct (TK) with peak of 30 on 19 Sep (MN). The last at L. Manawa was on 17 Oct (TB et al.).
- Killdeer:** The peak at Coralville Res. was 50 on 28 Sep (TK).
- Piping Plover:** 1 was at Nashua on 21 Aug (RKM).
- Lesser Golden Plover:** 1-6 were noted at Coralville Res. from 21 Aug-3 Oct (TK, MN); 1 was at Credit I. from 15-31 Aug (PP); 20 at Colo on 17 Aug (HZ), and 25 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 17 Sep (RVH).
- Black-bellied Plover:** 1 at Nashua on 1 Aug (JPSc), 1 at IPL Settling Ponds on 15 Aug (JK, SK), 1 at Colo on 16 Aug (RKM), 1 at Coralville Res. on 19 Aug (CJB), and 4 there on 25 Sep (TK), 1 at Credit I. on 25, 31 Aug (PP).
- Marbled Godwit:** 1 was at Colo on 15-16 Aug (\*FM, RKM, HZ), a third earliest date.
- Upland Sandpiper:** The only reports were from Palo Alto Co. on 4 Aug (RVH) and Sioux Co. on 7 Aug (DCH).
- Greater Yellowlegs:** The first were noted at Coralville Res. on 7 Aug (TK) but the main migration was there from 10 Oct to 7 Nov with a peak of 15 on the latter date (MN). Diagnostic details were provided for birds at Forney L. on 21, 29 Jul (TB).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** 30-50 were noted at Coralville Res. from 31 Jul-3 Oct and 1 lingered until 31 Oct (MN), a second latest date.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** The last were seen at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TK) but 1 lingered at Ames on 26 Sep (PM) and 3 Oct (JPSc) for a second latest date.
- Willet:** 1 was at Nashua on 14 Aug (JPSc).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 12 Sep (CJB, MN, RJH).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 19 Sep (TK, CJB, MN) is the second latest. There were 3 at Lewis and Clark SP on 7 Aug (TB), 1-5 at Colo on 1-17 Aug (HZ), and 1 at Larson M. on 12 Sep (HZ).
- Northern Phalarope:** 1 at Cherokee on 7 Oct is a second latest date. Others were at Coralville Res. on 28 Aug, 1 Sep (MN, m. ob.), Sioux Center on 24 Aug-2 Sep (GB fide JV), and Rock Creek SP on 7-11 Sep (JPSc).



- American Woodcock:** 1 was at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 23 Oct (RVH) and 2 at Coralville Res. on 31 Oct (TK, CJB).
- Common Snipe:** The peak noted at Coralville Res. was 48 on 17 Oct (MN, TK).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1-3 Juveniles were detailed at Coralville Res. on 14, 21, 28 Aug, 11 Sep (TK) and 21, 28 Aug (MN).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1-6 Juveniles were detailed at Coralville Res. from 27 Sep to 7 Nov (MN, TK), the last being nearly completely molted to basic plumage and a record late date.
- Sanderling:** 4 at Colo on 22 Aug (PM), 6 at George Wyth S.P. on 15 Sep (RKM), 2-5 at Coralville Res. on 18, 19, 26 Sep (TK, CJB), 2 at Sioux Center on 24 Sep (JV), and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Oct (JPSc), a second latest date.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Record late dates were 21 Nov at L. Manawa (SK, JK, m. ob.) and 23 Oct at Coralville Res. (MN).
- Western Sandpiper:** Convincing details were provided for 3 at Forney L. on 25 Jul (TB), 1 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TK), and 2 at Rock Creek S.P. on 7 Sep (JPSc). Several others were reported.
- Least Sandpiper:** 1 at L. Manawa on 23 Nov is a record late date (TB, BJR, BP). Peaks at Coralville Res. were 150 on 5 Sep (TK) and 70 on 27 Sep (MN) with the last on 17 Oct (TK, MN).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 at Credit I. on 15 Aug (PP, MLP) is the earliest date of 6 records for this rare fall migrant. The bird was flushed to see the white rump.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** 2-5 at L. Manawa on 31 Oct, 18, 21 Nov (\*BP, LP, m. ob.) were the latest ever by several weeks. Others included 11 in Dickinson Co. on 3 Aug (DCH), 1-6 at Coralville Res. on 27, 28 Sep, 3 Oct (TK, MN), 2 at Colo on 16 Aug (HZ), 6 at Sioux Center on 30 Aug (GB fide JV) and 3 on 21-22 Sep (JV), 2 at Rock Creek S.P. on 11 Sep (JPSc), and 1 at Ames on 26 Sep (JPSc).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 at L. Manawa on 21 Nov (TB et al.) is the second latest. Peak at Coralville Res. was 600 on 19 Sep (MN) and latest on 7 Nov (TK, MN).
- Dunlin:** 1-2 at L. Manawa on 21 Nov (TB et al.) are the second latest. Coralville Res. birds arrived on 25 Sep, peaked at 40 on 23 Oct, and were last seen on 6 Nov (TK).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 23 Oct (MN) set a record late date. Peaks were 35 at Rock Creek S.P. on 7-11 Sep (JPSc) and 30 at Coralville Res. on 9, 19 Sep (MN).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 9 were described at IPL Settling Ponds on 10 Sep (TB, BJR).
- Ruff:** The bird of the season was spotted by IOU President W. Ross Silcock on a hog waste disposal pond at Mar-I-War Farms 4 miles e. of Tabor in Fremont Co. and was seen by many from 8-12 Sep (\*WRS, \*TB, \*TK, \*JPSc, \*BLW) and photographed (BJR, TK). The sighting was reviewed and accepted by the Records Committee.
- Herring Gull:** 2 at Bettendorf on 12 Aug were very early (PP).
- Ring-billed Gull:** Peaks were 1500-2000 at Coralville Res. on 21 Nov (RJH) and 1000 at Saylorville Res. on 31 Oct (JD).
- Franklin's Gull:** 1 was very late at Coralville Res. on 27 Nov (TK); 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 11 Nov (JPSc).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Peaks were 150 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Nov (RT) and 120 at Coralville Res. on 7 Nov (TK).
- Forster's Tern:** 1 was late at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (TJS).
- Common Tern:** Details were satisfactory for 3 seen at Decatur Bend on 2 Jun 1982 (JPSc), a record late spring date, and for 8 on 11 Aug and 1 on 22 Aug at Forney L. (TB et al.).
- Little Tern:** 1 was at Willow Sl. on 7 Aug (BLW).
- Caspian Tern:** There were numerous sightings from 5 Sep at Saylorville Res. (RL) to 20 Sep at Pine L. (PH) with peak of 50 at Saylorville on 18 Sep (RL) and 46 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TK).
- Black Tern:** Willow Sl. residents left by 28 Sep (BLW), a second latest date for the state. Peaks of 18 were noted at Colo on 1 Aug (HZ) and Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB et al.).

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 was at Ames on 5 Oct (PM).
- Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 was seen at Coralville Res. on 3 Oct (TK).
- Burrowing Owl: 2 adults and 3 nearly adult-sized young were found at Sioux Center on 2 Aug (\*DCH).
- Long-eared Owl: 1 was at Sweet M. on 14 Nov (FM, RKM).
- Short-eared Owl: 2 were in Pocahontas Co. on 30 Oct (RVH) and 1 at LeMars on 4 Nov (MBre).
- Saw-whet Owl: 2 were at Waterloo/Cedar Falls on 13, 19 Nov (RKM, m. ob.).
- Whip-poor-will: 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 Aug (JPSa).
- Common Nighthawk: 100 were at Clear L. on 1 Oct (JD). Last dates include a record-tying 15 Oct at Sioux Center (JV), 6 Oct at Ames (PM) and Iowa City (RJH), 22 Sep at Laurens (RVH), and 19 Sep in NE Mills Co. (BLW).
- Chimney Swift: Late dates noted were 12 Oct in Mills Co. (BLW), 11 Oct at Ames (JPSc), 6 Oct at Council Bluffs (CFS), and 23 Sep at Iowa City (RJH).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Only 4 reporters mentioned this species. One was late on 10 Oct at Iowa City (RJH).
- Common Flicker: A Red-shafted Flicker was at Willow Sl. on 20 Oct (BLW).
- Pileated Woodpecker: 2 were at Grammar Grove in Marshall Co. on 28 Aug (BPr, MPr, RRS).
- Red-headed Woodpecker: 204 were along the Chariton River bottoms on 2 Oct (RC) while the last were seen in Mills Co. on that date, apparently due to lack of acorns (BLW). Schaufenbuel found none in North and Central Iowa after early Oct.
- Eastern Kingbird: The last were noted on 19 Sep in Van Buren Co. (JPSa) and 18 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW).
- Western Kingbird: 1 was at Sioux Center on 3 Aug (GB fide JV).
- Great Crested Flycatcher: The last dates were 16 Sep at Ames (PM) and 15 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 was banded at Des Moines on 28 Aug (RL); 1-2 were at Davenport on 28 Aug-1 Sep (PP, MLP), and 1 at Ames on 3, 7, 11 Sep was heard singing on the 11th (JPSc).
- Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was still singing at Backbone S.P. on 16 Aug (JPSc).
- Alder Flycatcher: 1 said "fee-bee-O" at Forney L. on 17 Aug (TB, BPa).
- Least Flycatcher: Migrants were heard at Tripoli on 10 Aug (JPSc) and Forney L. on 11 Aug (TB, BPa).
- Eastern Pewee: Late migrants were seen at Ames on 13 Oct (\*PM), at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 10 Oct (JPSa), and in Mills Co. on 2 Oct (BLW).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last dates were 19 Sep at Coralville Res. (MN) and 18 Sep at Ames (PM) and Mills Co. (BLW).
- Tree Swallow: 2,000 were at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 17 Aug (JPSc).
- Barn Swallow: The last dates were 22 Oct at Polk City (JPSc) and 21 Oct at Mills Co. (BLW).
- Blue Jay: 120 were migrating in Iowa City on 25 Sep (RJH).
- Tufted Titmouse: None were found at Ames (PM) and only 2 were seen in NE Mills Co. (BLW).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: Migrants appeared on 22 Sep in Ames (PM, JPSc) and Des Moines (CML), and at Sioux Center on 12 Oct (JV). They were more common than White-breasted Nuthatches at Sioux Center (JV), but elsewhere numbers did not compare with 1981.
- Brown Creeper: The first appeared at Davenport on 23 Sep (PP) and Sioux Center on 30 Sep (JV).
- House Wren: The latest was 13 Oct at Ames (PM).
- Winter Wren: The earliest was 25 Sep at Pine Hill Cemetery (PP).
- Carolina Wren: None reported.
- Marsh Wren: 1 at Cooper's M., Story Co., on 31 Oct (\*SD, KD) was a second latest record; 2 were at Doolittle Prairie, Story Co., on 30 Oct (JPSc).
- Sedge Wren: 2 at Doolittle Prairie on 30 Oct (JPSc) are the second latest on record; 1 was in Dallas Co. on 4 Oct (RL) and the last were seen in



- Mills Co. on 18 Sep (BLW).
- Northern Mockingbird: None reported.
- Gray Catbird: Last dates were 2 Nov at Sioux Center (JV), 31 Oct at Orange City (JV), 10 Oct at Coralville Res. (RLH), 3 Oct at Ames (PM), and 25 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW).
- American Robin: 150 were migrating in Johnson Co. on 31 Oct (CJB, TK).
- Swainson's Thrush: 33 were picked up at the Alleman TV tower on 13-14 Sep (JD) where they were the second most common species. One was late at Ames on 13 Oct (PM).
- Eastern Bluebird: Numbers appeared to be higher than usual: "best fall since 1977" (DDM); "seen on every field trip in Sep-Oct" (RJH); 30 in Van Buren Co. on 17 Oct (JPSa); 26 in one flock in Johnson Co. on 31 Oct (CJB, TK); etc.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Several were late: 3 at Iowa City on 22 Sep (TJS), 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 19 Sep (JPSa), 1 at Ames on 17 Sep (PM).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: 132 at Brookside P., Ames, from 23 Sep-2 Nov (PM), abnormally large numbers at Sioux Center beginning on 12 Oct (JV), 10 in NE Mills Co. from 5 Oct-24 Nov (2 most seen in previous falls, BLW), and 8 in NW Johnson Co. on 3 Oct (CJB, TK) are a sample of apparently increased numbers.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 500 in Ames from 15 Sep-27 Oct, swarms (largest number ever) in Sioux Co. from late Sep to early Oct, 15 on 17 Oct at Coralville Res. (TK).
- Water Pipit: There were many reports from 12 Sep in Johnson Co. (CJB, RJH) to 8 Nov at Saylorville Res. (JPSc) with peak of 27 at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (TJS).
- Northern Shrike: Details were provided for an immature at Big Creek S.P. on 13 Nov and an adult in NE Winneshiek Co. on 21 Nov (JPSc).
- Loggerhead Shrike: Only a few were mentioned.
- White-eyed Vireo: 2 at Ottumwa on 26 Sep set a record late date (RC). One observed at Oak Grove S.P., Sioux Co., on 31 May is quite unusual for NW Iowa (Ken Hollinga fide JV).
- Bell's Vireo: Aug and early Sep sightings were from SW Iowa at Forney L. (TB, BPa), Willow Sl. (BLW), Keg L. (BPa, LPa), and DeSoto N.W.R. (BPa, LPa).
- Yellow-throated Vireo: Late dates were 3 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) and 21 Sep at Ames (PM).
- Solitary Vireo: 2 at Ames on 27 Oct (\*PM) are a third latest date.
- Red-eyed Vireo: 4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 16 Oct (JPSa) are the third latest; 2 were at Ames on 5 Oct (PM) and 1 at Laurens on 2 Oct (RVH). At the Alleman TV Tower on 14 Sep 133 were killed.
- Philadelphia Vireo: Late dates were 3 Oct at Ames (\*PM) and Sioux Center (JV), 26 Sep at Ottumwa (RC), and 25 Sep at Des Moines (RL).
- Black-and-white Warbler: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 30 Oct (JPSa) was the latest ever; another was late at Ames on 13 Oct (PM).
- Golden-winged Warbler: 1 at Ottumwa on 12 Sep (RC) was the only one mentioned.
- Blue-winged Warbler: A Brewster's hybrid was reported from George Wyth S.P. on 11 Sep (FM, RKM). Blue-wings were at Ottumwa on 29 Aug (RC), Ames on 15 Sep (PM), and Turkey Creek W.A., Cass Co., on 16 Sep (RCH).
- Tennessee Warbler: 60 at Ottumwa on 26 Sep were noteworthy (RC); 1 was late at Pettitt W.A., Cass Co., on 23 Oct (RCH).
- Orange-crowned Warbler: Late birds were at Coralville Res. on 31 Oct (TK, CJB) and Laurens on 29 Oct (RVH).
- Nashville Warbler: 328 were found at Ames from 5 Sep to 13 Oct (PM).
- Northern Parula Warbler: First and second record late dates were 16 Oct at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (JPSa) and 10 Oct at Ames (\*PM). At Ames, 13 were found from 29 Aug-10 Sep (PM).
- Yellow Warbler: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 Oct (JPSa) ties the second latest date.
- Magnolia Warbler: 1 in NW Johnson Co. on 14 Aug (CJB, MN, TK) is a second early date.

- Cape May Warbler:** 2 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 3 Oct (JPSa) and 2 at Ames State Nursery on 26 Sep (JPSc).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** It was a banner fall for Black-throated Blue Warblers topped by the Iowa's first specimens from the Alleman TV Tower on 14 Sep (JD, JPSc). Others were at Davenport on 31 Aug (PP, MLP, LL), Yellow River F. on 4 Sep (JPSc, DK), Ames on 9 Sep (PM), Waterloo on 11 Sep (FM, RKM), n. of Waverly on 18 Sep (RKM), Colo on 25 Sep (HZ), Des Moines on 2 Oct (RDM, EA, MDx).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** 32 were seen at Ames from 9 Sep to 5 Oct (PM). One at Sioux Center on 30 Sep was unusual (JV). The last was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 9 Oct (JPSa).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** 14 were at Ames from 1 Sep to 2 Oct (PM) and 1 was late at Lizard L. on 10 Oct (WJ).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** On 11 Sep a stunned bird was on the sidewalk of Charlotte and Dick Scott at Seymour, and their photos are the first of this species for Iowa. There is no specimen. The last date in Van Buren Co. was 10 Aug (JPSa).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 20 were seen at Ames from 29 Aug to 2 Oct (PM); on 3 Oct 1 was at Des Moines (CML) and 3 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa), the second latest date.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** A record-tying early bird was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Aug (JPSa); 30 were at Ames from 29 Aug to 23 Sep (PM).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** 30 were at Ames from 9-23 Sep (PM).
- Pine Warbler:** 1 was reported from George Wyth S.P. on 16 Sep (FM).
- Prairie Warbler:** The one report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Ovenbird:** 32 were killed at Alleman TV Tower on 13-14 Sep, the third most common species (JD). At Ames, 19 were seen from 29 Aug to 29 Sep (PM).
- Northern Waterthrush:** 1 was at West Okoboji L. on 22 Aug (CFS).
- Kentucky Warbler:** 1 was at George Wyth S.P. on 3 Sep (FM).
- Connecticut Warbler:** Reports were from Grammar Grove S.P. on 28 Aug (BPr, MPr, RRS) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 Oct (JPSa).
- Mourning Warbler:** Reports were from Grammar Grove S.P. on 2 Sep (BPr, RRS) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 Sep (JPSa).
- Common Yellowthroat:** 2 at George Wyth S.P. on 10 Oct (FM, RuH) were late.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Several were at Sioux Center on 13, 14 Oct (JV); the last were at Ames on 3 Oct (PM).
- Canada Warbler:** 20 were seen at Ames from 22 Aug to 21 Sep (PM); 1 was at Davenport on 17 Aug (PP) and 2 were at Atlantic on 20 Aug (RCH, DHu).
- American Redstart:** 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 16 Oct (JPSa) is the second latest. The last were seen at Ames on 2 Oct (PM).
- Bobolink:** 15 were at Larson M. on 12 Sep (HZ).
- Orchard Oriole:** Two nests with young were found at Lewis and Clark S.P. on 6-8 Aug (TB).
- Northern Oriole:** Last dates were 9 Sep at Ames (PM) and 6 Sep in NE Mills Co. (BLW).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Flocks of 12-30 were well described in N Polk Co. on 10, 13 Nov (JPSc).
- Scarlet Tanager:** There were several Oct records: 2 Oct at Laurens (RVH) and Sioux Center (JV), 5 Oct at Ames (PM), and 8 Oct at Davenport (PP), and 9 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa).
- Summer Tanager:** A male and two females were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 18 Sep (JPSa) and a winter-plumaged bird was described at Davenport on 7 Oct (PP, MLP).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Late dates were 10 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RC), 3 Oct at Ames (PM), and 30 Sep in NE Mills Co. (BLW).
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** Another female was reported, this time from Elkhart, Polk Co., on 23 Nov (\*DDM). The Records Committee has been unable to decide whether the four females reported early this year are Black-headed Grosbeaks or hybrids. The Committee plans further study of the matter.
- Blue Grosbeak:** 1 was still singing at Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB, BPa);



another was reported from Cherokee on 11 Sep (MBre).

Indigo Bunting: The last were noted on 3 Oct in Story Co. (JPSc) and Johnson Co. (CJB, TK).

Dickcissel: An 18 Oct date in NE Mills Co. (BLW) is the second latest on record.

Evening Grosbeak: None reported.

Purple Finch: Few were reported. The earliest was on 11 Sep at Ames (JPSc).

House Finch: The bird previously reported at Perry was seen on 1-4 Aug (\*FM, \*JPSc, \*PP). In late Sep a female appeared in Mason City and was so tame it would land on a person's shoulder. Photographs were submitted by Mildred L. Moore.

Common Redpoll: None reported.

Pine Siskin: The only report was from Ames on 1 Nov (JPSc).

American Goldfinch: 3 young were ready to fledge on 29 Sep in O'Brien Co. (DCH), an unusually late date.

Red Crossbill: None reported.

White-winged Crossbill: None reported.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Several late ones were reported: 3 Nov at Willow Sl. (spotted race, BLW), 31 Oct at Little Clear L. (WJ) and NW Johnson Co. (TK, CJB), 23 Oct in Iowa City (TJS).

Lark Bunting: There was a late undocumented report from 8 miles west of Sioux Center on 19 Jun (GB fide JV).

Savannah Sparrow: 65 were at Doolittle Prairie on 30 Oct (JPSc).

Henslow's Sparrow: 1 was found in mid-Jun at Cayler Prairie, Dickinson Co., by Peter Lowther during a breeding bird census.

LeConte's Sparrow: 1-14 were at Doolittle Prairie from 3 Oct to 7 Nov (JPSc); 1-3 were reported from four other sites in Oct.

Northern Junco: The earliest on 25 Sep were at Estherville (HW) and NE Mills Co. (BLW).

American Tree Sparrow: The earliest was at Sioux Center on 16 Oct (JV).

Chipping Sparrow: 3 were at Ames on 30 Oct (PM).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Large numbers were in Sioux Co. in mid-Oct (JV). The only other report was 1 at Ames on 10 Oct (PM).

Field Sparrow: 28 Oct was the last date in NE Mills Co. (BLW).

Harris' Sparrow: The first was seen in NE Mills Co. on 16 Oct (BLW); 10-15 were at Sunken Grove from 31 Oct-3 Nov (WJ). None were mentioned in E Iowa.

Lapland Longspur: 4 were at Doolittle Prairie on 3 Oct (JPSc, SD), 100 at Larson M. on 10 Nov (PM), and several flocks of 25-150 in NC Iowa on 16 Nov (DBi).

Snow Bunting: At Saylorville Res. there was 1 on 29 Oct and 12 on 15-16 Nov (JPSc).

\* = documented

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Barrett, Des Moines; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Richard S. Bennett, Ames; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gordon Brand, Sioux Center; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Raymond Cummins, Centerville; James Dinsmore, Ames; Steve Dinsmore, Ames; Kraig Downs, Ames; Elton Fawks, Moline IL; James L. Hansen, Clear Lake; Ronald V. Harms, Laurens; Douglas C. Harr, Larchwood; Phyllis J. Harris, Union; R. Craig Hensley, Atlantic; Richard J. Hollis, Iowa City; Robert W. Howe, Des Moines; Wallace E. Jardine, Pocahontas; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Rene Laubach, Des Moines; Paul Martsching, Ames; Bob Moats; Richard D. Mooney, Des Moines; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; D. Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Mary Musgrove, Des Moines; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Gary Nelson, Ankeny; Michael C. Newlon, Iowa City; Babs Padelford, Bellevue NE; Loren Padelford, Bellevue NE; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; John Robinson, Herrin IL; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Joseph P. Schaufenbuel, Ames; Conrad F. Schlemmer, Council Bluffs; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Bob Sheets, Maquoketa; W. Ross Silcock, Malvern; Ramona R. Sommerlot, Union; Thomas J. Staudt, Iowa City; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Harold W. White, Estherville; Barbara L. Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames;

## OTHER OBSERVERS

Eugene Armstrong (RDM, RL); Brian Blevins (PP); Corey Blevins (PP); Don Bray (TB); Ann Burns (RL); Judy Carlson (RVH); Kelly Clark (TB); Mark Dinsmore (JD); Mark Dixon (RDM, RL); LaVonne Foote (DH); George Gage (TB); Russell Hays (FM); Dan Huey (RCH); Darwin Koenig (JPSc); James Kovanda (TB); Sandy Kovanda (TB); Christyna M. Laubach (RL); Larry Linder (PP); Mark Lund (TB); Dave Menke (TB); Mary Lou Petersen (PP); Mark Proescholdt (BPr); Ronald Reese (RVH); B. J. Rose (TB); Johanna K. Sandrock (JPSc); Andy Saunders (TB); Garnita Seward (BPr); Nancy Slife (BPr); Dennis Thompson (RL); Rick Wright (TB).

## COMMENTS

I have delayed switching to the new checklist names and order until the first issue of next year. Please continue to use the new checklist for field reports.

There were many excellent reports this fall with 45 documentations of unusual sightings and early or late dates. Particularly appreciated are new reporters and Iowa Conservation Commission personnel who relay reports through Bob Howe and others. Some of the new names for this period were Bob Barrett, Richard Bennett, Gordon Brand, Bob Moats, Gary Nelson, Bob Sheets, and Harold White. A number of observers provide longitudinal data on migration from one or more localities. Shorebirds were followed independently and weekly at Coralville Res. by Newlon and Kent. Warblers and other passerines were followed on what appeared to be a daily basis at Brookside Park in Ames by Martsching. Sandrock continues to provide record warbler and other passerine dates from his SE Iowa weekend hideout in Van Buren Co. Wilson has been the most consistent provider of detailed migration data from her SW Iowa farm and Willow Sl. in NE Mills Co. Schaufenbuel covered more territory than anyone else in central and NE Iowa. Bray and associates from Nebraska always provide much needed data from W Iowa. Harms and Jardine have taken over Pocahontas Co. from Cummins who has moved to Centerville and is already sending in record shattering dates from south central Iowa. Several observers routinely serve as funnels for data from other observers: Bray from the Council Bluffs area, Dinsmore from Ames and Iowa State University students and former students, Harr from NW Iowa, Howe, Roosa, and Newhouse from the Iowa Conservation Commission, Petersen from the Quad Cities area, Proescholdt from Hardin and Marshall Cos., and Myers and Moore from the Waterloo area. Birders such as Hensley at Atlantic are opening up previously unreported territory. Other faithful contributors who provide the backbone of data for the Field Reports include Bendorf, Bierman, Brewer, Hollis, Koenig, Laubach, Mosman, the Padelfords, Schlemmer, Silcock, Staudt, Thornburg, and Zaletel. The many others who report on a less regular basis provide many of the more unusual findings and are equally appreciated.

Contributors have been very good about getting their reports to me by the first of the month. Documentations and details on unusual birds continue to improve the quality of the data on Iowa birds.

I would like to make one change in the reporting procedure. Please list all secondhand reports separately at the end of your report or on a separate report form. This will allow me to be more accurate in giving credit for the observations. As before, I expect contributors to report only those secondhand observations that have been verified by asking appropriate questions. Under "Other Observers" on the report form list only those who birded with you during the period.

The manuscript for *The Birds of Iowa* by Dinsmore, Kent, Koenig, Petersen, and Roosa has been completed and is in the process of being evaluated for publication. With this task done, we can begin to define which species should be reported and when, and, perhaps, to develop more detailed report forms for those who bird most intensively. Contributors vary in which species they report and the type of information reported. Therefore, I think it might be useful to define categories for reporting. We might consider placing species in one or more of the following categories in order to clarify when and how they should be reported: (1) ALL -- report all sightings; (2) DOC -- document all sightings; (3) DET --

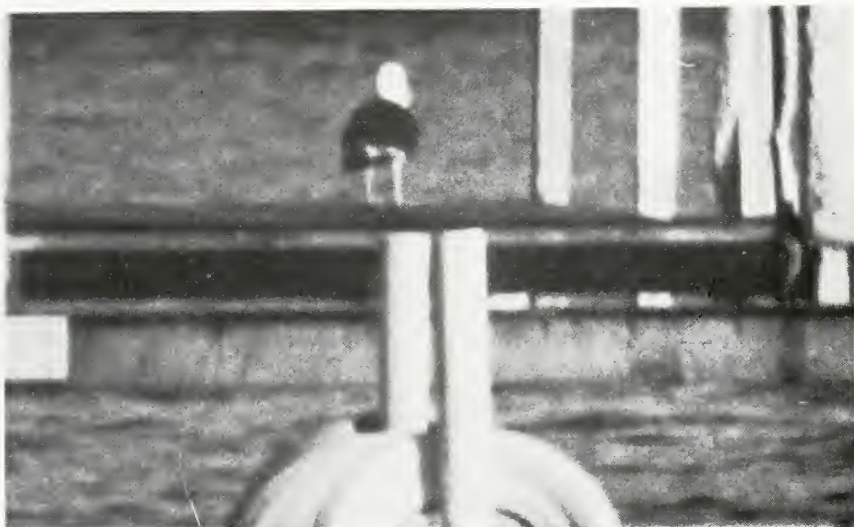


provide details of identification observed for all sightings; (4) ELP -- early, late, and peak dates; (5) PK -- peak dates and numbers; (6) T/M -- total individuals seen per month; (7) T/C -- total individuals seen per county; (8) LOC -- report only if away from local range; and (9) UNU -- report only if unusual dates, numbers, or locations. I am working on a list that will define usual and unusual dates. Now would be a good time to send me your ideas and suggestions for improving the reporting process.

## General Notes

**Great Black-backed Gull in the Iowa Lakes Region** — On the evening of 14 July, 1982, members of the Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon Society had gathered for a picnic and birding field trip near Spirit Lake, when member Linda Hinshaw and her husband, Bob, arrived late. The reason for their lateness was that they thought they had identified a Great Black-backed Gull on the north end of West Okoboji Lake, and they wanted further verification. I and six other members accompanied the Hinshaws to the home of Earl Rose, retired Chief of Game and Fish for the Iowa Conservation Commission, who had first reported the presence on an unusually large, black and white gull on his dock to the Hinshaws. After about 5 minutes we spotted the bird perched on a dock several hundred yards to the east.

The bird's size, estimated at about 30 inches from bill to tail, and distinctive, almost coal-black back immediately identified it from all other common local gulls and left no doubt that it was, indeed, a Great Black-backed Gull. Its feet were rather fleshy colored, and when startled into flight, white trailing wing edges were prominently displayed, as well as small white tip patches just proximal to the wing tips. The bird was observed for about 35 minutes by a total of seven Audubon members and Mr. and Mrs. Rose. Photos were taken of the bird on the dock and in flight. These have been submitted to the IOU records committee, which has already accepted and verified this sighting as only the second for this species within the State of Iowa.



Great Black-backed Gull  
Photo by Doug Herr

This same gull was sighted several times over the ensuing two weeks on West Okoboji Lake, and later on Center Lake. This sighting and others around the Iowa Lakes Region in recent years, make Dickinson County and surrounding areas one of the best potential birding regions in Iowa. The area's wealth of large lakes, natural marshes, remnant prairies, numerous glaciated pasturelands, cropfields, and small woodlands offer some of the state's most diverse habitat within one county. Active birders should make it a point to make careful observations in the Lakes Region; there may be many fascinating and unusual species yet to be discovered. Douglas C. Harr, Box 65, Larchwood, Iowa 51241

**Swamp Sparrow Nesting in Iowa** — The status of the Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) as a nesting species in Iowa has been poorly documented. Anderson (1907) and DuMont (1933) list the Swamp Sparrow as a common migrant. Bennett (1934) reports twelve nests from Clay Co. in 1934, and lists the species as a common summer resident in Clay, Emmet, Palo Alto, and Dickinson Counties. Brown (1971) records Swamp Sparrows nesting at Little Wall Lake (Hamilton Co.), Dunbar Slough (Greene Co.), Zirbel Slough (Cerro Gordo Co.), and in the Ruthven area (Palo Alto Co.). In 1980 a nest was found in a brome grass (*Bromus inermis*) field in Cerro Gordo County (unpublished nest record). No detailed description of a Swamp Sparrow nest in Iowa has yet appeared in the literature.

On 10 May 1982 I examined a Swamp Sparrow nest at Dewey's Pasture GMA, Clay County, Iowa. The nest contained four eggs. The eggs, which were pale blue and heavily mottled with brown, ranged in size from 19.0-19.7mm X 14.1-15.0 millimeters. Incubation had recently been initiated, and no embryo development was evident. A Swamp Sparrow was in attendance when the nest was found. The nest was constructed on the ground, and covered with a canopy of residual *Carex* sp., with bits of grass and cattail (*Typha glauca*) woven in. The nest was constructed of *Carex* sp. and cattail; lined with a fine grass, probably bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and with hair. The nest had a depth of 45mm, an outside diameter of 78mm, and an inside diameter of 65 millimeters. The nest was located about 10 m from standing water, and about 1.5 m from a stand of cattail. The dominant vegetation at the site was bluegrass. Other species present include cattail, smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.).

This nest, and those few records from the literature indicate that the Swamp Sparrow is at least a casual nester in the state. Additional reports are needed to determine its abundance and distribution as an Iowa nesting species.

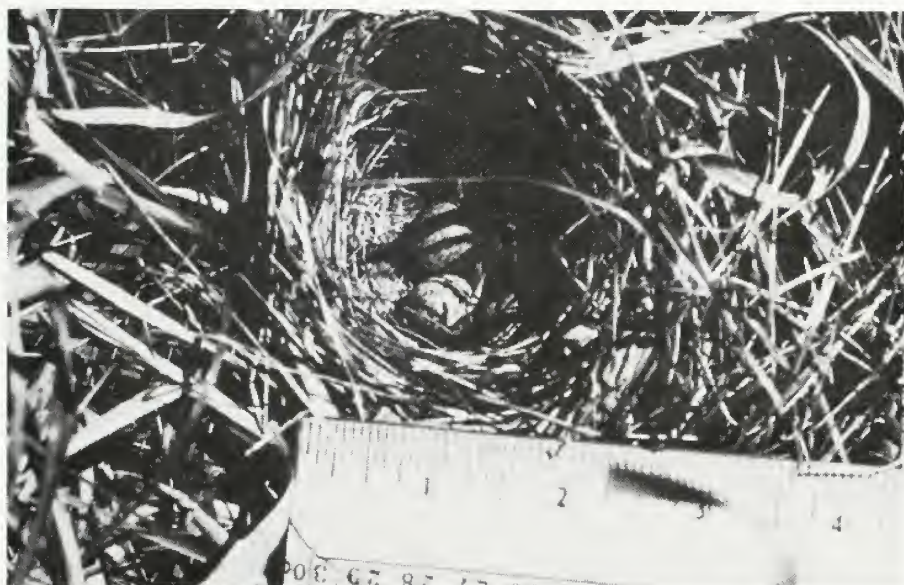
#### Acknowledgements

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- Rex R. Johnson, Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa





Swamp Sparrow nest with canopy removed.  
Photo by Rex Johnson

**Fourth Annual Eagle County, 2-16 January 1982, Target Count Dates 8 & 9, 1982.** The 1982 count was the 23rd Annual Count of Bald Eagles on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and some wildlife refuges away from the River. Additional areas where counts were made included the Ohio and Wabash rivers as associated with Illinois, major reservoirs, cooling lakes and natural wetlands. Elton Fawks coordinated counts along the Mississippi River and Michael Sweet acted as the State's coordinator. William S. Clark of the Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, coordinated the nationwide count.

Eagles found in Illinois and along the bordering Mississippi River follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Immatures</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unknown Eagles</u>
Mississippi River	672	238	910	0
Illinois River	128	68	196	28
Fox River	1	1	2	0
Wabash River	0	3	3	0
Rock River	1	0	1	0
Ohio River (New For Count)	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>
River Totals	814	313	1127 Plus	28
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	68	66	134	0
Misc. from state	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals away from Rivers	74	67	141 Plus	0
Illinois Totals	888	380	1268 Plus	28 For 1296
Percentage	(70)	(30)		

<u>Location</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Immatures</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unknown Eagles</u>
Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin	114	6	120	4
Kentucky & Tennessee	103	427	1532	35
Grand Totals	1105	427	1532	35
Percentages	(72)	(28)		

Due to the limited distribution of Golden Eagles along the Mississippi River most of the "unknown" eagles are presumed to be Bald Eagles. Severe winter weather conditions caused delays in scheduled counts made by airplane; all counts took place between January 5 and 13, 1982.

Individuals and groups from public agencies as well as private citizens again cooperated to make this count successful. Of particular interest was the cooperative counts made along the Ohio River between the Illinois and Kentucky Departments of Conservation. Kentucky has flown over its portion of the Ohio River for several years; through a cooperative spirit, Kentucky offered to carry Illinois biologists in an effort to make counts on both sides of the river. The number of eagle counters totaled 110 individuals.

The total number of eagles observed during the count was 1532 plus 35 eagles of unknown species or unidentified age for a total of 1567. These figures differ from those of the 1981 count of 1476, 35, and 1511, respectively. If all eagles counted along the Mississippi River, adjacent to Illinois, are considered Illinois birds, 1268 Bald Eagles plus 28 unknown species or unidentified age, or 1296 eagles were counted statewide, respectively. If all eagles observed along the Mississippi River, adjacent to Iowa, are considered Iowa birds, the number of eagles counted along the Mississippi River would total 622 birds.

The age ration of identified Bald Eagles for the entire count was 1105 (72 percent) adults to 427 (28 percent) immatures. For Illinois alone, it was 888 (70 percent) adults to 380 (30 percent) immatures. These percentages are historically very interesting when placed in five year periods of perspective. From 1962-66 20 percent were immatures; DDT was being used as a commercial pesticide during that period. From 1967-71, 28 percent were immatures; DDT was being phased out during that period. From 1972-76, 29 percent were immatures; during that period DDT was banned. These figures are all taken from the One Day Counts. From 1977-81, 26 percent were immature — Michael Sweet, State Coordinator, Illinois Endangered Special Program, Department of Conservation.

## Obituaries

Jud W. Strickland, 79 of Mount Vernon died at his home Wednesday, August 4, 1982 following a long illness. He was born Nov. 17, 1902 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He married Eleanor Luckey on Sept. 3, 1924 at Vinton. He was a stockbroker for Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Bean for many years and later was employed as a machinst for Iowa Manufacturing, Cedar Rapids, until his 1967 retirement.

He was a member of the National Audubon Society, a founding member of the local Audubon Society, and a member of the Iowa Ornithologist Union for 38 years. Mr. Strickland was an avid bird watcher and participated in numerous Christmas counts. In 1973 Jud suffered a crippling stroke but this did not deter him from inviting elementary classes and his grandchildren to view the birds at his feeding



stations outside his kitchen window.

He is survived by his wife, three children and twelve grandchildren. Memorial contributions have been made to the Iowa Ornithologist Union. — Hank Zaletel, Colo

## Book Reviews

**Elliott Coues, Naturalist and Frontier Historian** — Paul R. Cutright and Michael J. Brodhead — 509 p., 18 b & w photos — 1981 — \$28.50.

Coues is one of the most outstanding and prolific scientists of the last half of the nineteenth century. He authored over 600 publications including the frequently reprinted **Key to North American Birds**. This detailed biography is colorful and complete. It is the only biography of this pioneer in the study of the birds of the American west. ed.

**Bird Populations in East Central Illinois: Fluctuations, Variations, and Developments over a Half Century** — S. Charles Kendeigh — Univ. of Illinois Press, Champaign — 136 p. — 1982 — paperbound — \$14.95.

One wooded area of about 50 acres near Champaign was censused. Some species showed increases over the years while others showed decreases. Other areas in the Champaign area were censused and the variations are discussed in detail. This small book shows what can be done with persistent study of the same area. ed.

**An Atlas of the Birds of the Western Palaearctic** — Colin Harrison — Princeton University Press — 332 p., 806 maps — 1982 — \$25.00.

The western Palaearctic covers Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. This book maps the entire ranges of 639 species in this area as well as the breeding range, habitat and nest sites and each species is illustrated by a line drawing. The introduction indicates the underlying factors affecting bird distribution. It would be really useful if the new A.O.U. Checklist included maps of this nature. ed.

**Bird Detective** — Peter Robinson — Hamish Hamilton, North Pomfret, Vt. — 159 p., 12 b & w photos — 1982 — \$19.95.

Although England has perhaps the toughest conservation laws in the world, many Britishers haven't accepted the message. Robinson is Senior Investigations Officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and in this capacity he works closely with police to enforce these laws. He literally risks his life performing his job and the stories provide interesting reading. I know of no private agency in the U.S. which employs such an agent, although the U.S. could use this type of dedication. ed.

**Golden Eagle Years** — Mike Tomkies — Dist. by David & Charles, Inc., North Pomfret, Vt. — 202 p., 22 color and 42 b & w photos — 1982 — \$24.95.

The author spent over eight years studying Golden Eagles in the West Highlands of Scotland. Concentrating of five pairs of eagles he follows their flight patterns, territoriality, courtship, mating, nesting and training young. His vivid style of writing and fine photography combine to present a very interesting personal story. ed.

**The Barn Owl** — D. S. Brunn, A.B. Warburton & R.D.S. Wilson — Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D. — 266 p., 1 color and 31 b & w photos — 1982 — \$32.50.

The Barn Owl is extremely nocturnal and therefore often overlooked in routine field work. In this work, much in the classic mold of other British studies, the authors present a detailed, balanced account of the species. There are major chapters on breeding, general behavior, feeding, distribution and voice. Various

English habitats were studied and the behavior was compared to races from throughout the world.

**Coastal Texas, Water, Land, and Wildlife** — John L. Tveten — Texas A & M Univ. Press, College Station — 120 p., 127 color photos — 1982 — \$29.95.

This is primarily a collection of super photographs. The author is thoroughly familiar with the area and has chosen well to represent its great beauty and convey the ecological relationships. The book is divided into three sections, the beach, dunes and marshes. The text supports the photographs nicely and the combination is pleasing and rewarding for browsing or careful study. ed.

**A Celebration of Birds — The Life and Art of Louis Agassiz Fuertes** — Robert Mc Cracken Peck — Walker & Co., NY — 178 p., 49 color, 101 b & w illus. — 1982 — \$30.00.

While biographical in nature, the author's treatment of Fuertes life delves deep into the qualities that resulted in his ability to capture the truly lifelike appearance of his subjects. Despite Fuertes well known accomplishments as an artist, explorer and natural scientist, we are reminded of his role in popularizing bird study through the art created for baking soda boxes. It is a must for those who appreciate fine bird art and wish to delve into the personality of the artists. ed.

#### **BURROWING OWL COLORMARKING: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

In 1982 burrowing owls were colormarked in south-central Saskatchewan during a research program investigating movements of these owls during the breeding season. Information is requested from anyone seeing a colormarked owl to aid in determining migration routes and wintering areas which are presently unknown. Each owl carries a Fish and Wildlife band and from one to three colored plastic leg jesses. Jess colors are yellow, fluorescent red, light blue, and dark green and are one centimeter wide and extend approximately 1.5 cm beyond the leg.

Persons observing colormarked owls please record the following: location, date, color and position of leg jess or jesses, leg of attachment of metal leg band and jess or jesses, and any details of the owl's situation. Please send this information to, Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0E7 plus an additional copy to the bander, Elizabeth A. Haug, Dept. of Veterinary Anatomy, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W0. Thank you for your assistance.

NOTE: Owls were banded with colored leg jesses in Saskatchewan and with colored leg bands in Manitoba. Please note this difference if marked birds are seen.

#### **CALL FOR BIRD FEEDER AND HOUSE DESIGNS**

A new book, tentatively entitled **The Audubon Society Handbook for Attracting Birds**, will include innovative homemade designs for bird feeders, houses and baths. The author, Stephen W. Kress, is looking for improvements to standard models of feeders and houses and original designs for any homemade bird attracting creations. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats and nuisance birds are also welcome. In addition to the handbook, some of the submitted material may be selected for articles in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's new magazine, **The Living Bird Quarterly**. The designers of selected plans will be acknowledged in the book and articles.

Mail detailed plans with measurements (and photographs if available) to: Dr. Stephen W. Kress, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.